



Press Release

July 27, 2004

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CalEPA Secretary Applauds the Governor's Leadership

SACRAMENTO—Governor Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders reached agreement last night on this year's state budget. Throughout negotiations, the Governor steered a course toward a budget that will fund California's essential services, protect education, move toward a structural balance, and will not raise taxes, at the same time continuing his commitment to protect California's environment and natural resources.

"Californians deserve clean air, clean water, and a safe and healthy environment for their children and their communities. Through Governor Schwarzenegger's leadership, we have set forth a balanced plan that helps us maintain the State's long tradition of environmental stewardship," said Terry Tamminen, Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

The 2004 Budget Act includes 33.9 million to improve air quality while lowering overall consumer costs for vehicle smog check requirements. For the first time, permanent funding has been secured for the successful "Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program".

"By permanently funding this program for the first time, we are making a significant down payment on improving air quality for all Californians" said Tamminen.

The budget act also funds implementation of the electronic waste-recycling program enacted last year. The Integrated Waste Management Board and the Department of Toxic Substance Control are working together to implement this important program, which diverts potentially toxic components from our landfills and establishes a recycling framework.

The State Water Resources Control Board will administer grants and loans totaling about \$150 million in new funding this year that will help local governments and communities treat sewage, control runoff, and prevent water pollution. These efforts will be increased through this Budget Act and will appropriate \$25 million for agricultural water quality improvement projects.

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